

**DISTRIBUTED PROCESSOR MODULES AND PERSISTENT STORAGE
IN AN OPTICAL NETWORK****RECEIVED**

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FIELD OF INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates generally to communication systems and more particularly, to a method and system for distributed storage of administrative information in a communications network. The present invention also generally relates to a system and method for distributed administrative control of one or more elements in one node by another node. An example of a communications network is a fiber optic communication system.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Nodes in a communications network such as an optical network may typically comprise an administrative node processor module (ANPM) and a persistent storage module (PSM). The processor module comprises a processor and a primary database. The administrative node processor module is concerned with control of administrative functions, examples of which include configuring and monitoring elements of a node and providing a management interface to a user.

[0003] The persistent storage module (PSM) typically comprises a memory access unit, for example a file server, and maintains a backup database of administrative information for the node. Persistence means that the stored information has to continue to exist even after one or more applications that saved and manipulated the data have ceased to run. Examples of administrative information are the default states and/or current states of the elements or components of the node. Examples of information stored would be power settings, and states of switches and indicators.